

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 SY-05 OMB-01 CU-02
ACDA-07 /092 W
-----190653Z 109890 /13

R 181402Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2910
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY
SUBJ: MORE ON LIBYA

REF CAIRO 4408,

1. EDITORIAL VITRIOL TEMPORARILY EXHAUSTED, BUT CAIRO PRESS
CONTINUES KEEP LIBYAN SUBVERSION/SABOTAGE ON FRONT PAGES.
MARCH 18 REVELATIONS BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR EXPANDED ON PAST
REPORTS AS INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE.

2. PROSECUTOR SAID LIBYANS HAVE SENT FOUR SABOTAGE SQUADS
INTO EGYPT, TWO OF WHICH ARRIVED 13 AND 26 JAN, INDICATING
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CONNECTION WITH "RECENT EVENTS IN EGYPT", I.E., JAN 18-19
DISTURBANCES. SQUADS WELL SUPPLIED WITH "SOVIET EXPLOSIVES"
WHICH WERE TO BE EXPLODED RANDOMLY IN ORDER CREATE PANIC AND
ENCOURAGE CONTINUED DEMONSTRATIONS. ADDITIONAL SQUAD ARRIVED
FEB 16 AND LAST ON MARCH 5, JUST BEFORE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT.
OBJECTIVES WERE POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS AND DISCOURAGING
HEADS OF STATE FROM ATTENDING SUMMIT. REPORT NOTES LIBYAN

AUTHORITIES HAD FAILED IN DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO DISSUADE AFRICANS FROM ATTENDING CONF. PROSECUTOR PUT TOTAL AGENTS INVOLVED AT 20, ALL OF WHOM HAD CONFESSED TO TREASON AND MURDER, CRIMES PUNISHABLE BY DEATH OR LIFE IN PRISON. PROSECUTOR PROMISES INVESTIGATIONS WILL BE COMPLETED BY NEXT WEEK, SPEEDY INDICTMENT AND URGENT TRAIL BEFORE SUPREME STATE SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. PAPERS ALSO CARRY STORIES FROM TRIPOLI REPORTING THAT QADHAFI PLANS TO CHANGE DESIGNS OF LIBYAN BANK NOTES IN ATTEMPT TO STEM "INCREASING WITHDRAWAL OF BANK BALANCES CAUSED BY POLITICAL ECONOMIC ANXIETIES IN LIBYA."

3. LIBYANS SEEM TO HAVE INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF IMPRESSIONABLE WESTERN DESERT EGYPTIAN TRIBESMEN TO CONVERT INTO AGENTS. IF CAIRO PRESS IS TO BE BELIEVED, THEY ALL ASTONISHINGLY INEFFECTUAL. THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR SEEMING PASSIVITY OF EGYPTIAN POPULATION IN FACE OF CONSTANTLY ADVERTISED LIBYAN DETERMINATION TO BRING THE HOUSE DOWN. PRIVATE CRITICISM OF LIBYA EASILY ELICITED, BUT BRIEF FLURRY OF SERIOUS PUBLIC CONCERN ON HEELS OF ALEXANDRIA AND CAIRO BOMBINGS LAST SUMMER SEEMS LARGELY DISSIPATED. AS DEPT AWARE, GOE OFFICIAL CONCERN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.
MATTHEWS

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